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QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY

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NOTES AND NEWS

It has been good news to hear that the Union Education Department has agreed to undertake the placing of the most important early Cape newspapers in the Library on microfilm through the agency of the Department's Film Services. Two cameras will shortly arrive at the Library and the first ten papers are estimated to take about a year to complete. These are, in chronological order of starting:

South African Commercial Advertiser, 1824-69.

Zuid-Afrikaan, 1830-1910.

Grahamstown Journal, 1831-1913.

Ware Afrikaan, 1838-42.

Kaapsche Grensblad, 1844-61.

Eastern Province Herald, 1845-1910.

Friend, 1850-90.

Cape Mercantile Advertiser, 1852-89.

Cape Times, 1876-1910.

Afrikaanse Patriot, 1880-1900.

The *Cape Argus* is omitted from this list as it is believed that this paper will be independently microfilmed. The master negatives will be kept by the Film Services in specially constructed cellars to ensure against deterioration, and the Library will, of course, have a copy of each. Copies will also be available for other institutions that require them.

As will be gathered from previous mention in these pages, this relief has only just come in time. The state of some of the above newspapers is extremely serious, a number being far advanced in disintegration.

It is fitting that a journal such as this should pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Henry Guppy, C.B.E., Librarian of the John Rylands Library,

Manchester, who died on 4th August, aged 86 years. Dr. Guppy, a scholarly librarian of the old school, controlled the destinies of the John Rylands for nearly fifty years, building up one of the leading learned libraries of the world. He wrote and edited innumerable literary and bibliographical works and was also editor, for forty years, of what may in some way be considered our prototype, the *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*. A special issue of this, edited for once by another, appeared in his honour in 1941 (Vol.25). There a detailed catalogue of Dr. Guppy's achievements may be found. Not least of these was his work in the reconstruction of the University of Louvain after the First World War—only, alas, to be destroyed again twenty years later. No genuine seeker after knowledge went away empty from him and the writer of these notes will always remember that it was Dr. Guppy who first afforded him the privilege of taking an incunabulum into his own hands to appreciate as a book and not as a museum piece under glass.

The exhibition of rare books and manuscripts brought to this country by Mr. Charles R. Sawyer of the firm of Chas. J. Sawyer, Ltd., of London, aroused considerable interest in Cape Town during October. A notable feature of the display was the magnificent bindings both ancient and modern. Another point to observe was the perfect condition of the items—a consideration which might well have more attention locally when it is often presumed that a rare Africana item in a dilapidated state is worth just as much as a sound one.

The detailed appraisal of the Lady Anne Barnard letters recently deposited on permanent loan in the Library by the South African National Society, must, it is regretted, unavoidably be held over until our next issue.

COLLECTORS' LURE

The acquisitive instinct is deeply rooted in the human breast, and can be indulged in in a great many ways. The athlete collects trophies, the angler

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fishing records, the Red Indian scalps and the young girl proposals; these are all manifestations of the same instinct, which can be as much a power for good as for evil.

Perhaps the collecting of books is one of the least obnoxious, one of the most beneficial forms that this instinct can assume. For it is the book-collector who preserves from untoward destruction the accumulation of knowledge of bygone ages, while he himself is adequately rewarded by the enjoyment he derives from the actual collecting. Unless, however, he has assembled his books with some attention to their content, and with some definite aim in view, his shelves will be filled with a melange of unrelated histories and undigested knowledge. It is a well-known fact that the bringing together of a number of books dealing with the same subject enhances the value of each individual volume; for the power to compare and correlate the one with the other adds value to all.

Books are not always collected for their special content. They may be collected for external reasons, as examples of binding and printing of a definite period, or because of their fine craftsmanship. Whatever the reason for their being collected, there is no question that where there is a well-defined aim in bringing them together, that purpose gives added value to the whole, and the more important the purpose the more necessary it is that that which man hath joined together should in no wise be put asunder! Libraries, like gardens, should be a coherent whole, reflecting the character and personality of the collector, so that those who make use of it sense at once the feeling that they are on terms of intimacy with the man who loved and assembled the books.

Apart from the living specimen itself—and it may be a very dull one—there is no better study of mankind than the books he has written. These, too, may be dull; but with such an inexhaustible range to choose from, there should be no difficulty in making our subject entertaining. Books are the only link between the minds of men in the past and men of to-day. Books are the "blood-banks" of the minds of men, with this difference, that the same conserved blood of books can be used an unlimited number of times, and actually improves with continual usage. I recall that, as a child, I never would take from the school library a book that did not show evidence of having been read by a number of children. My standard was, of course, unenterprising, and even wrong in some respects; nevertheless, the books that have withstood the ravages of time and still please mankind to-day must contain some elements that place them beyond the common herd. Content rather than cover must delight; but physical condition cannot be ignored, though it should only in rare instances be the main reason for acquiring the book. The content is all-important: but *mens sana in corpore pulchro* should be the ideal. The collector should be selective and intelligent

in his collecting, if he would stand well with posterity or leave his collection to his widow as a sound investment: for the books assembled assume the mental characteristics of the owner, they reveal him to the observant student in his true proportions. This is why the libraries of famous persons ought never to be broken up, and why, if for any reason they have to go under the hammer, the catalogues published by the auctioneer become collectable items, often reaching quite a high figure. Even where the individual is of small account, such lists of books often serve to indicate the predilections of the reading public of any age or class, and to give us a picture of the intellectual resources and preferences of a former age.

The pleasant characteristic of book-collecting is that the collector need not be rich or well-born, he needs only to have the urge to collect the indefatigable energy to pursue his purpose and he will be respected and sought after. There are always wonderful opportunities waiting on the man who knows his stuff, and in between these admittedly rare occasions, there are collector's adventures and contacts to be enjoyed. The great thing is that poor and humble, as well as rich and sophisticated, can find a branch of book-collecting suited to their resources. If one cannot afford to collect Elzevirs, first editions and colour-plate editions-de-luxe, there are many lesser treasures among the trivia, in danger of total extinction during spring-cleaning holocausts, which will pay dividends of four and five hundred per cent. if one could bear to part with them: but I confess there is a fatal fascination about the ephemera. As some women want to adopt every starving kitten they see, so I feel I want to house the neglected little ephemera: the poetaster who publishes his third-rate verse with his last fiver; the little collections of short stories, rejected by the current press, and published, perhaps, for war funds! the lectures on abstruse and unusual subjects given to learned societies by some doddering, dear old professor, and reprinted for him from the Society's Journal; or a brief obituary of some worthy and even notable personage, wherein facts are recorded hitherto unknown. The very obscurity and insecurity of their tenuous hold on posterity and future survival, adds to their value when picked up for a few pence at a "remainder" sale, or off the tables on the Grand Parade. It has been claimed that even the lids of match boxes have some value when collected: and while I will dispute that, or at least be politely credulous, I must insist that any printed matter collected from the middens of our social past has the potentialities both of a good financial investment and of a rare collector's item. They are always evidences of some facet of humanity, of habits and modes of thought whose presence has been overlooked by the historian.

Like all worth-while occupations, the assembling of books in a proper manner demands a long apprenticeship; it calls for the devotion of a lifetime of labour and reading as well as a constant alertness and awareness

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of the market, both the regular and the private market. The death of a well-known collector, or of the head of a well-known old family inevitably brings to light a spate of books on the Parade and in the local auction rooms. It is as well, when the vultures assemble, to have had your picking before the others arrive! One of the great problems with which the collector is faced, however, is not so much the acquiring of books, but the discarding of badly chosen volumes. It may appear a simple matter to decide to get rid of some books; actually, because there is a strange and pathetic loneliness about an unwanted book (as if it were an unwanted, but once-prized cat), which proves only too often the undoing of the collector. Once acquired, books assume a possessive air towards their owners. Of right they seem to occupy their niche on your shelves, and to dislodge them causes so much heartache, both to them and to you, that, having taken them off the shelf and packed them in the garage ready to be sent away, it is more than likely that you will sneak them into the house again on the slightest provocation! It is a far better plan to exercise a rigid restraint in buying books, so that they do not acquire a sentimental tyranny over one's heart and that to the detriment of one's comfort. Space does not admit of the unbridled buying of books. It is inevitable, over a long period of book-collecting, that wider knowledge, a shifting of the centre of interest and many other accidents will demand that some old favourites, perhaps whole groups of them, should be sacrificed to the homogeneity of the whole. If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out! Easier said than done, as I can state from personal experience! Such discards seldom bring in what has been spent on them. It is therefore very much wiser to be chary of buying a book with haste. Let it not be a cheap honour to sit upon your shelves, but a high privilege and a safe retreat.

Book-collectors are frequently accused of dishonesty, deceit, greed and lack of principle. There is no question that they are not quite like other men, but their eccentricity usually takes a benevolent turn, and they are—to each other—the finest company in the world. Their unfavourable reputation has been brought about rather through the shortcomings of others than because they are inherently bad. If there is justification for the accusation—and I confess there sometimes is—there is also justification for the wrong done. If a kitten or dog is being starved, neglected or ill-treated, who would blame a humane stanger for rescuing the helpless little thing from its unworthy owner? To one who loves books, the sight of valuable or rare books standing neglected on the shelf, or left to the unmerciful attentions of children is equally impelling, and if a rescue is effected, the action should perhaps be applauded rather than deplored. People who have pets should learn how to care for them; and in the same way those who possess rare books should take a little trouble to find out how to handle them in such a way as to prolong their existence. But only the most depraved collector would ever

take from another the treasures that he loves. One bad fellow among a select company has been known to blacken the names and ruin the reputations of them all. Book-collecting is a species of book-welfare work, the neglected child of someone's brain being lifted out of uncongenial surroundings, where he is despised and ill-treated, to be transported to a sphere in keeping with a decent way of life, where he is given the opportunity to be of use to mankind.

Sooner or later a sort of sea-change comes over the collector. At first he is in command of the situation, he buys what he fancies and all is peace and contentment; but inevitably he falls a slave to his own predilections. Now he ceases to be a free agent, but is impelled by that which he already possesses to augment, complement and generally provide a fitting fad of companions for the treasures he has already acquired. He sells his car, his wife's piano, and has even been known to forego his annual holiday to add to his hoard. His family, his home, his health, his person, all have been known to suffer from his neglect. But like the rogue, he is a *rara avis*, and serves more as a scarecrow to warn off the dilettante than as a serious obstacle to the sincere. Morose and taciturn many collectors undoubtedly become among strangers, but in the company of other collectors, they expand and expound without regard to time or place.

Where all is so delectable, it is not easy, in starting off on the long road of collecting, to decide upon what you will make your special field. Two things will decide this: natural inclination and the power of the purse. Perhaps the most generally appealing are the old travellers. Their great folios embrace the widest interests, they introduce their readers to far-flung countries, exotic nature and savage peoples. Their vigorous prose and adventurous living are indicative of their sturdy minds and bodies. They are more to be enjoyed than the passionless, patient pictures of the illuminated missal with its delicate beauty. But alas! there are many persons of money and of taste who are buying up the old swashbucklers as fast as they come upon the market. And where they are owned but not valued, a sort of low cunning governs the rapacity that would dispose of them. They generally, in their ignorance, ask far more for them than they are really worth, and would almost rather hand them over to the tender mercies of children than accept an offer below their expectations. The way to clinch the bargain is to make an offer for a number of items, not betraying to the seller which it is you specially desire to possess. The unwanted items can always be thrown away.

Whether the collector is able to buy the really valuable items or has to content himself with the smaller fry, there is no reason why he should not make his collection unique of its kind, and, by its very completeness and the unusual content it possesses, it becomes of interest and value to the knowledgeable. The joy and the profit lie in the actual collecting, in achieving which one gains an insight both into the books themselves and into the nature

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of one's fellow-men; and if I say that in most cases the impressions are pleasing there is no intention to flatter. On the whole, collectors and their associates, the dealers, are pleasant fellows, with a fund of story and theory, which they can impart without wearying themselves or their listeners for hours on end. Nor does the collector in a big way despise his humbler brother, but each sees in the other's treasures something to admire and to emulate, either in the orderliness of the arrangement and listing, or in the richness of the elements of which it is composed.

I shall now suggest some types of items which may well be collected by the father of ten (if he have but a cupboard which he can lock up). Naturally, in this country it would be foolish to try to collect up the sorts of books that are easily found in England but are almost non-existent out here. The ideal collection in this country would be composed of items peculiar to South Africa, and would therefore consist of an Africana collection. While, of course, other types of books could be ordered from catalogues from overseas, there is a fierce joy in searching the shelves of second-hand shops in bidding for books at ordinary house sales, or in attending the specialised Africana sales held at intervals in the larger centres, where one is buoyed up and almost inspired to great exertions, in order to pick up the few crumbs that the well-known dealers allow you to snatch from them! Most amusing of all are the duels to be fought between yourself and the private owner, where each pits his puny strength against the other, and where perhaps the bargain is not struck for as much as an hour. As in deep-sea fishing, it calls for stamina, patience, cunning and guile to land your fish, nor would the true fisherman have it otherwise. The joy of discovery, the excitement of playing and landing the fish, cannot be overrated.

At present the prices for the better known Africana items are very high, nor do they show any signs of abating. There is still a wide field for collecting at a reasonable figure, however. West and East Africa, the Anglo-Boer War, and the later travellers and hunters can be obtained at prices that are within the scope of the poor man. A little judicious buying and selling of these less desirable items will probably bring in enough in profits to pay for an occasional 17th or 18th century voyage. But if your interest cannot be aroused by regions so remote, let me commend to you the lesser known or collected ephemera, such as programmes, menus, music, souvenir and publicity booklets, invitations cards, music post-cards, photographs, memorial cards and similar unconsidered trifles. In the first place, people will give them to you; in the second, so few people are collecting them that they should prove a sound investment—always supposing, of course, that no misguided and zealous servant tidies up your room and throws them away. Allied to these trifles are the reprints of essays, lectures and poems which are printed privately by the author for the pleasure of his friends. All these little trifles are valuable

in that they reflect social conditions, events and predilections which are probably not recorded anywhere else but in an obscure corner of the newspaper. As the majority of the booklets printed soon find their way to the rubbish-dump, it is obvious that many of these little fellows will be very rare one day.

Cigarette cards, which may not be revived for many a day, are also worth collecting, and the trade in them is booming in Great Britain. It is of interest to know that the only book on Cape flowers still obtainable is the cigarette card album published by a local firm before the last war. Among my own collection, I have about 200 cards on the Anglo-Boer War. They were purchased in England, and I have been able to add very few to them, indicating that these cards have become a rarity.

Old photographs are being burnt by conscientious housewives almost every day. Even when the name of the person is not marked on the picture, these photographs throw light on costume and physical characteristics in the place where they were taken. Here and there a well-known celebrity of the past turns up, or perhaps a member of the Royal Family. It is to be regretted that the old folk still alive do not make time to sit down and write behind each of the old portraits who it is. Little Johnnie in a sailor collar, might, for instance, be John X. Merriman: there is no means of knowing unless someone who does know, takes the time to write down the information. South African music is not so easy, but there is room for a number of new collectors, as there are only about six people gathering up the scattered fragments. As most of it was printed in Europe it is necessary to study very carefully the catalogue printed by the Strange Collection, in the Johannesburg Library.

Enough has been said to indicate that there is still a wide field for the would-be collector; but it would be as well for those intending to embark upon the stormy sea of collecting to give pause. The collector cannot sit back, once he has acquired a book, and wait until the next one comes his way. Every item must be entered up on cards, according to author and according to subject. If this is not done, it is a certainty that he will soon reach the stage where he will have to say, "I know I have that book, but I cannot find it." Not only must he arrange and index his collection, but he must show patience with the people who want to see his treasures, and to study the contents of any of them. There is not much fun in possessing a large and comprehensive library if no one is able or desirous of using it. Whatever the nature of his collection, he may be sure that it will appeal to someone, and it is his duty to receive the researcher and will render him all the aid he can.

And then, in the end, what is the aim and purpose of all this work and worry, this rivalry, this plotting and scheming: for when we slip through the door to the other side, we go as we came, empty-handed. When there are

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dependents, of course, such a collection would be realised and bring in a tidy sum; but when there are no dependents, he should consider the claims of his fellow-men, and try to make provision for the books to be given to some public institution for the use of posterity. By making this gesture, the collector justifies his supposed greed in the past. Threefold are the pleasures of the good collector: he has the present joy of collecting, the future prospect of benefiting his fellow-men and the constant companionship of congenial spirits who share and understand his interests.

In conclusion, I cannot do better than quote Dibdin's description of a genial bibliomaniac, of whom it is said that the three things he found it hardest to do were to go to bed at night, to rise in the morning and to settle an account!

"How shall I talk of thee and thy wonderful collection, O rare Richard Farmer? Of thy scholarship, acuteness, pleasantry, singularities, varied learning and colloquial powers! Peace to thy honest spirit! For thou wert wise without vanity, learned without pedantry and joyous without vulgarity." To those who knew him, this apostrophe might well have been addressed to the late Dr. John G. Gubbins.

M. K. JEFFREYS

THE ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS IN THE GREY COLLECTION

A GENERAL SURVEY

One of the most valuable parts of the collection left to South Africa by Sir George Grey—and certainly the most beautiful—is the manuscript section. Yet while many have examined and enjoyed the exquisite workmanship of these one hundred and fifteen volumes, it is regrettable that except in two or three instances they have never been studied and described by an expert, and no adequate catalogue exists. The Trustees are well aware of the need to remedy this deficiency as soon as funds and opportunity permit. Meanwhile it would seem desirable for some general survey of the more valuable and interesting items to be published in order that this unique South African collection should become better known. A pamphlet by Dr. W. H. I. Bleek, first custodian of the Grey Collection, entitled *The Library of H. E. Sir Geo. Grey, K.C.B., presented by him to the South African Public Library. Manuscripts and incunables. Vol. III—Part I*, (London, 1862, viii, 24 p.), gives a brief account of some of these items with certain startling

omissions, and is largely a revision of articles appearing in the *Cape monthly magazine*. Dr. Bleek, of course, was a philologist, and in no way an expert on mediaeval manuscripts, although a man of wide knowledge.

In this survey—which is intended solely as an introduction and not a work of scholarship—I shall divide the collection into religious and secular works and deal with them in rough chronological order under each heading. The most striking and interesting items only have been selected.

A. Religious MSS.

1. *Evangelia Quatuor*

The four Gospels in Latin written on vellum about the year 900 by Northumbrian or Irish monks. 173 ll. 28.2 × 20 cm. (Glass case 4)

This volume may be claimed to be, by a long way, the oldest book in Southern Africa. The text is in extremely legible minuscule with some fine coloured capitals, that particularly notable being for St. Luke's Gospel, with much of the interlacing motif typical of the Celtic school. Each Gospel has a prologue, a "title-page," and a quaint but beautiful painting of the evangelist. The work in this volume is not strictly illumination, having no gold or silver in it. Compared with later work it may seem crude, but it has an attractiveness of its own.

2. *Biblia Latina*

The Bible in Latin on uterine vellum, 13th century. 526 ll. 28.5 × 18 cm. (Glass case 4)

This is a good example of the first Gothic script, which succeeded the Carolingian minuscule, and of typical 13th century restrained but beautiful illuminated capitals, containing extremely detailed miniatures which are often illustrative of the text. Prolongations of the capitals frequently culminate in curious human-headed dragons and are decorated with hares, dogs and lions such as the illuminator often introduced at this period. The predominant colours are blue and red. The capital I of the Book of Genesis is particularly notable, containing eight miniatures.

The text seems to vary considerably from the usual Vulgate version. Added at the end is to be found the Second Book of Esdras, an apocryphal work.

3. *Evangelistarium*

German or Flemish, 14th century on vellum. 216 ll. 25 × 19 cm. (a6)

This comprises the Gospels and collects for every Sunday and festival in the year. There are thirty-six large historiated capitals (i.e., initial letters containing miniatures), of rather crude workmanship, and much rubrication.

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The text is in a good large Gothic script. The first two pages are entirely illuminated in gold with a large initial P for "principium." The provision for such saints' days as Gungulfus, Alban, Willibald, Lantbertus, bishop of Maestrecht, and Oswald, show that this book was intended for Northern European use.

There is an interesting note on the fly-leaf stating that on the Vigil of St. Philip and St. James, 1525, the volume was despoiled of its original covers of gold, silver and precious stones by Goetz von Berlingen (Berlichingen) (1480-1562), who figures in Goethe's play of that name, and Georg von Ballenberg. These men were leaders in the Peasant War of 1522-25.

The existing binding, somewhat broken, is, however, quite an interesting example of 16th century blind tooling with brass corners and clasps. Furthermore it bears the name of Amorbach stamped upon it which would lead one to believe that the volume belonged to the Benedictine monastery which existed in the Bavarian town of that name.

4. *Antiphoner (or Antiphony)*

French or Italian, 15th Century on vellum. 96 ll. 36×24.9 cm.

(Glass case 3)

This beautiful MS has a large illuminated frontispiece depicting the Nativity and numerous fine borders, miniatures and capitals. To-day the term Antiphony is applied to the book containing the music for the Breviary, or the book of all the special offices of the Roman Catholic Church, as opposed to the Gradual which contains the music for the Mass. This book, however, begins with eleven leaves containing the graduals for masses proper from Christmas until November 11th. The whole book is clearly not by the same hand, the last half-dozen leaves being of very inferior workmanship and unilluminated. Apart from the frontispiece, a particularly beautiful leaf is no. 35 (First Vespers for the Feast of All Saints), in which are depicted in the border five women in contemporary costume representing Faith, Hope, Charity, Penitence, Patience, Justice and Munificence.

5. *Gradual*

French. 15th century on vellum. 43 ll. 58×42.5 cm. (A)

This amazing MS, which appears erroneously in Hahn's catalogue of the Grey Collection under the heading "Introits for Saint's Days, MS Music," is not just a book of introits but contains all the antiphons proper for Mass on feast days, viz., Introit, with accompanying psalm and gloria, Gradual, Offertory and Communion with occasional versicles and responses. The forty-three leaves in the Collection are only a fragment of the whole, being numbered 56 to 111 and wanting leaves 90, 93 and 97 to 108. They cover the feast days from June 9th to 24th only, so that the immense size of the complete

work can be imagined. Each day has the most exquisite illuminated capital about 11 cm. square with abundant gold leaf. The designs of these are noteworthy in that none are historiated, but present variations of the same flowers—an orchidaceous species—leaves and seed-vessels. In order to give the MS an impressive front page with a good capital at the top, some binder has bound leaves 109-111 in at the beginning before leaves 56-96.

The chants are the usual Gregorian and the text agrees very closely with that of the Sarum rite. The musical notes measure 1 cm. square and the text letters 2 cm. high, so it would clearly be easy for several cantors to have sung from it at the same time.

It may be interesting to note that Grey paid £7 17s. 6d. for this book!

6. *Psalter*

English, 15th century on vellum. 202 ll. 30.7 × 21 cm.

(a6)

There are several psalters in the Grey Collection but this must be by a long way the finest. It is written in a bold missal hand with many floriated borders and seven beautiful historiated initials. The B of Beatus at the beginning of the first psalm depicts King David playing upon his harp. The Capital of the 53rd Psalm—"Dixit insipiens in corde suo"—depicts a king on his throne with a *jester* beside him. Did the illuminator presume that that was the kind of fool meant by the psalmist, or was he merely punning?

The text is preceded by a calendar and some astronomical tables to find Easter. The Psalter proper is followed by the Confitebor, Benedictus, Magnificat, etc., with various litanies.

7. *S. Hieronimi Epistolae*

Probably Italian, 15th century, on uterine vellum. 137 ll. 26 × 17.8 cm.

(a6)

This MS of the epistles of St. Jerome, the greatest biblical scholar of his age (c. 342-420), is described in some detail in the pamphlet by Bleek above-mentioned. It consists of eighteen letters on religious subjects to various persons, and an epitaph on the death of St. Paula, the foundress of a sisterhood under St. Jerome's guidance, who died in 404.

The small Gothic script—there are 32 to 34 lines to the page—is very legible and shows a distinct tendency towards the humanist style and the forerunner of our modern roman. Headings are in red and there are many beautiful decorated capitals though little gold is employed. The general impression of this MS is one of freshness and an excellent state of preservation.

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Books of Hours

Books of Hours were among the commonest of the products of the mediaeval scriptoria, so it is not surprising that the Collection contains a large variety of them of varying degrees of excellence, ranging from one of 16th century Dutch workmanship measuring only 6.8×5.5 cm. although fully illuminated, to the beautiful 16th century French one, claimed to have been the property of Marguerite de Valois, Queen of Navarre. Books of Hours are usually some form of the "Horae Beatae Mariae Virginis," giving the offices for each of the Canonical Hours of the day, and intended for lay rather than clerical use. The majority of the Horae in our collection would therefore have belonged to private individuals of some wealth since only such could have afforded these works of art. The following are selected for special mention:

8. *Book of Hours*

French, 15th century on vellum. 162 11. 19.5×13.5 cm. (a4)

The text is finely illuminated and contains numerous typically French floriated borders and four miniatures. Strangely there are also to be found in this volume nine illuminated cuttings from other volumes that some earlier owner has pasted in on blank pages.

Some two or more centuries ago it would appear that an owner of this book claimed that it was written in the 13th century and had belonged to Louis IX, the saintly king of France, since it bears the following inscription on the fly-leaf in an 18th century hand: "A Louis VIII R. de F. et de N.," and below: "Decimo tertio saeculo scriptus." This statement has been repeated by a later 19th century owner in English, though it requires but slight familiarity with mediaeval MSS to realise that this is not 13th century work, and in any case St. Louis's own day (August 25th) is recorded in the calendar at the beginning of the book—"ludovici regis f."—and is most certainly not a later addition. He was canonised in 1297. The 19th century owner says (inside the front cover) "The royal ownership seems the more probable from the fleurs de lys on the binding." This is quite true and it is possible the book may have belonged to a member of the royal house.

9. *Book of Hours*

Probably English, 15th century, on vellum. 122 11. 20.5×15 cm. Book of Hours according to the Sarum rite. (Glass case 3)

The numerous peculiarly English saints appearing in the calendar of this book, e.g., Elphege, Oswald the King, Wilfrid, Willibrord, Edmund the King and Birinus, mark it as of English origin apart from the style of the illumination and the twenty-four large miniatures—interesting specimens of English art of that period.

An interesting addition to the book is the copious MS notes in the calendar, showing it to have been in possession of the Wilson family, one time of Eastdene, during the 16th and 17th centuries. Members of that family made a custom of entering births and deaths together with other important events, both domestic and general, against the appropriate day. These include the execution of the Earl of Essex in 1600, the accession of King James I in 1603 and the plague of the same year. The freezing over of the Thames is also recorded. The earliest birth that can be deciphered is that of William, son of Robert Wilson, on 13th February, 1563. A later hand records his death in 1637.

10. *Book of Hours*

French, 15th century on vellum. 175 ll. 19.8 cm. × 14.2 cm. (Glass case 3)

Opinions may differ, but this is probably the most beautiful of all the 15th century MSS in the Collection and one in which the miniatures (fifteen in number) have reached the highest state of perfection. Every single page has a delicate floriated border liberally sprinkled with gold leaf as only the French could produce. In addition to the aforesaid fifteen miniatures there are fifty-four small ones in the lower borders. A black and white reproduction cannot do justice to this gem of illumination, the plate facing p. 50 will, however, give some idea of the quality of the workmanship.

1. *Book of Hours*

French, early 16th century, on vellum. 195 ll. 17 × 11.8 cm.

(Glass case 3)

This MS shows almost the last stage in the development of the art of illumination. In earlier centuries the decorated border grew out of the illuminated capital and became more and more elaborate as the years went on until at this time, early in the 16th century, the capital has often lost its importance and the border is found separated from it within its own closed frame and has become a dense mass with a gilt ground on which flowers, beasts, birds and insects are crowded. This book contains sixteen large miniatures of which a remarkable feature is the golden highlights of the drapery on many of the figures. The style of the text hand shows a tendency to be more cursive than is found earlier. It is to be noted that while the text is in Latin the calendar is in French. Leaves 171 onward contain special prayers in a different hand, obviously of a later date. Of these some are in French and some in Latin.

This MS is reputed to have belonged to Marguerite de Valois (or d'Angoulême), Queen of Navarre (1492-1549) and authoress of the celebrated *Heptameron*. The claim is supported by the contemporary binding which bears the monogram "MV" and is a fine example of delicate gold tooling



Book of Hours, French, XVth Century. Illumination, leaf 61a.

Grey Collection, S.A. Public Library

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with inlay. This Marguerite—nicknamed “La Marguerite des Marguerites” was the grandmother of Henry IV of France and should not be confused with the latter’s dissolute wife.

B. Secular MSS

1. *Guillaume de Lorris*, d.c. 1240, and *Jean Clopinel de Meung*, c. 1230-1305
Le Roman de la Rose, ou l’art d’amour est toute enclose. circa. 1300-1320 on vellum. 133 ll. 29.5×21.5 cm. (a6)

The Roman de la Rose, the greatest mediaeval French romance, an English version of which is attributed to Chaucer, was begun by Guillaume de Lorris between 1225 and 1230 and continued, from line 4202 onwards, by Jean de Meung between 1268 and 1277. It would appear that the mere possession of a MS of this work is of little account as there are over 200 in existence which are, if anything, commoner than the earliest printed editions, the first of which appeared in 1481 from the press of Ortuin and Schenck in Lyons.* There are no fewer than thirteen MSS in the British Museum and sixty-seven in the Bibliothèque Nationale. Our copy is, however, of particular interest in that its date has been very nearly determined and that it was claimed by Mr. W. Tasker Smith, a Victorian expert, to be one of the earliest in existence. At that time, however (1861), the poem was believed by some to have been completed only just before the second author’s death in 1305; the later researches of M. Ernest Langlois† leave no doubt however, from internal evidence, that the dates above quoted are correct. I am unable to discover the date of the earliest extant MS, but it is at any rate certain that the Grey MS was written some thirty or forty years after the poem was completed, and not almost contemporaneously as was originally believed. The narrowing down of the date to the early years of the 14th century is achieved by the costumes displayed in the numerous miniatures and in particular the sleeves and gloves worn and carried by the figures therein (cf. fol. 65b).

In this copy leaves 2, 5, 19 and 134-136 are unfortunately missing, though the last three have been replaced by copies on vellum of a very much later date. The text is in double column with 40 or 41 lines to the column unless interrupted by a miniature of which there are eighteen scattered throughout the book. Most of the latter are 6 cm. square with gilded borders and tessellated backgrounds. All the capitals are illuminated in gold and the text is in a legible Gothic. This has been checked with a printed version and found to vary in almost every line.

*See Bourdillon (F. W.). The early editions of the Roman de la Rose. Bibliographical Society, 1906. p. 12-13.

†See Petit de Julleville (L.). ed. Histoire de la langue et de la littérature française. Moyen âge, 2me partie. Paris, 1909. p. 127.

2. *Mandeville (Sir John de)*

Travels. Flemish, late 14th century, on vellum. 82 ll. 26×18 cm. (a6)

I shall not deal with this MS in much detail as it has been the subject of a fairly full examination by A. Lodewykx in the *Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsche Taal en Letterkunde*, n.r. dl. 22, 1911, p. 1-55, and further researches have recently been carried out in Europe the results of which have not yet been made known.

It should suffice to say that this must be an extremely early Flemish version of the celebrated work which is believed to have been written in the mid-14th century. The earliest MS in existence is a French one dated 1371. Whether or not Mandeville actually existed is undecided and it is generally considered that the Travels must have been written under a pseudonym.**

This MS begins with a table of contents (folio 1b) covering chapters I to XXXII only, there being in all sixty-one in the book: the second leaf is wanting. This is followed by a frontispiece (folio 2b) depicting Mandeville in a sailing boat in the middle of the world with the four winds blowing from each corner of the globe. The beginning of the text, after a short invocation of the Almighty, has an illuminated capital, but otherwise there is a simple rubrication throughout the book. The text is in a readable though rather imperfect Gothic and does not vary greatly from the standard English version, published by J. O. Halliwell in 1839, with which it has been compared.

3. *Bertapaglia (Leonardo) d.1460.*

Treatise on surgery, together with a treatise on ophthalmology by another hand, and the Surgical problems of the Master Mafeus. Rome, 1473, on paper. 160 ll. 28.3×21.5 cm. (a7)

Folios 1, 10 and 102 are unfortunately missing from this MS, which is written in double column in a script which very nearly approaches the cursive, except for the headings. Folio 1 must have contained the first part of the contents. The text starts on folio 3 which is illuminated with three capitals and a border. It begins:

In Christi nomine. Incipit super cirugiam in praticha doctoris medicinarum eximii atque fulgidi Bertepalie omni quidem virtute praestantissimi.

(Translation) In the name of Christ. Here begins the practice in surgery of the eminent and celebrated doctor of medicine, Bertepalie who excels in every virtue.

The contents have been examined with some care by Dr. Bleek in the pamphlet already mentioned. The first book consists briefly of a treatise by

**These problems are discussed in detail by Malcolm Leys in *Notes & Queries*, v. 191, pp. 202, 275; v. 192, pp. 46, 134, 224, 300, 494, v. 193, p.52, 1946-8.

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Bertapaglia who was professor at Padua in the early 15th century and based his practice of surgery on the celebrated Canons of Medicine of the 11th century Arabian philosopher Avicenna.† His book (folios 1-101) deals with the following subjects: hot tumours, cold tumours, the solution of the continuity in the flesh, nerves and bones, contusions, attrition, excoriation, the puncture and flowing of blood, sores, the solution and continuity of the nerves, diseased and broken bones and skulls.

The book which follows, the 'title-page' of which is unfortunately missing thus depriving us of the name of the author, deals with ophthalmology and extends from folio 103 to 122. The third book (folios 123-157) also lacks its first page but appears to be a series of questions on surgery by which the text of Avicenna is explained. This concludes:

Expliciunt problemata magistri Mafei de
laude doctoris solempnissime super
cyrgia Avicennae . . .

(Translation) Here end the problems of Master Mafeus (or Mafei?) in praise of the most solemn doctor on the surgery of Avicenna . . .

No information regarding the Master Mafeus (or Mafei) is forthcoming. Following the paragraph just quoted we have that most useful and somewhat rare occurrence—a record of the exact year of writing. The book speaks:

Expletus fui anno domini m°. iiii°. lxxiii
... die uno xviii mensis martii et die iovis
tribus noctis. Magister Marioctus Sti.
Pauli de Gallesio scripsit in urbe Rome,
&c.

I was completed in the year of
Our Lord 1473 . . . on the 18th
day of March and at the third
hour of the night. Master
Marioctus of St. Paul of Gallesio wrote me in the City of Rome, &c.

The remaining leaves are covered with prescriptions in Italian and poor Latin.

4. *Colonna (Egidio) Romano, archbishop of Bourges (alias Gilles de Rome) d.1316.*

Le gouvernement des princes. Translated from the Latin by Henry de Gand. French, 15th century, on vellum. [xiv], 234 ll. 38.4×26.7 cm. (A)

This massive MS begins thus after the table of contents:

Y commence la doctrine et composition de frere Gille de Romme de lordre des augustins au commandement et instance du noble Roy philippe de france la quelle est divisee en trois livres particuliere jadis translatez du latin en francaiz par maistre henri de gand a lordonnance du dit Roi. Et premier commence le prologue.

†See Campbell (Donald). *Arabian medicine and its influence on the middle ages*. 2 v. London, 1926.

Egidio Colonna, an Austin Friar, was appointed tutor to the son (afterwards Philippe le Bel) of Philippe III of France, and it was for his edification that the book was originally written in Latin under the title *De Regimine Principum*. This must presumably have been sometime before the young prince ascended the throne in 1285. The first printed edition appeared in Augsburg in 1473. The work is written in a prolix style and covers every aspect of what was considered desirable in the 13th century for a prince to know and practise in the estate to which he was called. The subjects treated vary from "the strength of the soul and in what strength the virtue of good works lies" to "how princes should order their battles when they must engage their enemies in the field." An interesting chapter is headed "This teaches that neither kings and princes nor other men should tell their secrets to their wives."

The book has been magnificently produced and contains two large miniatures measuring 17×16 cm., and a smaller one 8.5×7.5 cm., all with elaborate borders. There are also numerous illuminated capitals. The first miniature on folio 1 depicts the author presenting his book to King Philippe and has unfortunately been slightly damaged. The smaller miniature at the beginning of the second book on folio 81b depicts a similar scene and is perfect. The third miniature prefacing the second part of the Second book on folio 112a depicts the king on his throne with the author on his right supported by a courtier and expounding a point to him, while opposite a counsellor indicates the author's precepts being put into practice in an adjoining room where five young princes are at their studies under the surveillance of a tutor with a birchrod.

The volume is bound in calf with the gold-tooled crest of a French marquis upon it.

5. *Petrarca (Francesco)* 1304-1374.

Three MSS. Italian, 15th century, on vellum. (a5)

(a) *Canzone Sonetti et Triomphi di Messer Francesco Petrarca poeta Fiorentino*. 187 ll. 19.9×12.2 cm.

A perfect example of secular renaissance work, completely different in character from the mediaeval monastic style. The first page of the text following the seven leaves of the table of contents, has the above title most beautifully written in gold in pure roman script, while the text begins with an illuminated V containing a portrait of the poet. The page has a floriated border on three sides. A distinctive feature of this MS is that the entire text is written in trembling letters intended to show the emotional stress under which the scribe copied the great humanist's words. Examples of this practice are very rare.

The 361 odes and sonnets end on folio 149a and the Triumph begins on the following leaf with another exquisite capital (N) and a decorated inner margin.

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The contemporary leather binding bears, it has been claimed, the same ornaments as were used for the *Anthologia* of Lascaris (1494) now in the British Museum.

(b) Domini Francisci Petrache clarissimi poete Florentini. Liber Triumphorum. Triumphus Amoris. Florence, 1455. 48 ll. 21.6×14.5 cm.

Another perfect MS of the Triumph, very similar in style to Caesar's Gallic war (see No. 6). It possesses a beautiful first page, following a blank leaf, with a capital N in gold and a border on three sides consisting of intertwining white branches on a red, blue and green ground. A miniature of the Triumph of Love is inserted in the lower border. The capitals of each part of the book are illuminated and the explicits and incipits written in gold in every case. The MS ends:

Deo gratias. Gherardus Cerasius Florentinus scripsit de anno MCCCCLV°

(c) Canzone Sonecti et Triomphi. 159 ll. 21×14.5 cm.

This MS is very imperfect, lacking several leaves which it is unnecessary to detail here. It is in no way the equal of the other two MSS, having no illumination, but is of interest in that on leaves 60b and 61a three sonnets dealing with the excesses of the Papal court at Avignon have been ruthlessly obliterated by the quill of some early owner who disagreed with the sentiments expressed. These are sonnets 130-132. The perpetration of this heinous offence may have been the owner who inscribed his name on the last leaf in 1662—Dom Andreas Navagerio, a Camaldulian monk.

6. *Caesar (Caius Julius)*

Commentaria de bello Gallico. Northern Italian, 15th century, on vellum. 209 ll. 27.3×18.6 cm.

Very similar in style to No. 5 (b) above, this typical product of renaissance Italy has a magnificent opening page guaranteed to make any languishing schoolboy sit up and take interest. The title: "C. Caesaris. Commentariorum. Belli Gallici. Liber Primus. Incipit," is in red, below which there is a band of intertwining branches on a red, blue, green and gold ground about 1.5 cm. deep. Below this the text begins with a beautiful golden capital G around which similar white branches are interwoven and merge into the border which completely surrounds the page. This border is of like motif, centred on a single golden bar at the top and the left and on a double one on the right and at the bottom where there are also several birds, beast and cupids depicted. There is also a coat of arms in blue and white in the lower margin. The whole text is in a most beautiful script, the direct forerunner of our roman type. There are several illuminated capitals, notably on folios 18b, 28a, 36a, 45a, 65a, 89 a and b, 103a, 125b, 139a, 170a, 189b, 199b. In each case the back-

ground overflows along the whole of the inner margin and the gold leaf looks as fresh as the day it was put on, which was clearly after the colouring had been finished.

A. M. L. R.

SOUTH AFRICAN PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

Supplementing the Hand-list of South African Periodicals received under the Copyright Act, December, 1945¹

Film review; a two-monthly journal published exclusively for the members of the film societies in southern Africa. Cape Town Film Society, P.O. Box 3218, Cape Town. *Free to members.* no. 1, Sept./Oct., 1948.

Bim.

Die Kruisstryder/The Crusader. P.O. Box 22, Florida, Tvl. *Free.* [no. 1], Aug./Sept., 1948.

Irreg.

National building research institute/Nasionale bounavorsingsinstituut. Bulletin. S.A. Council for scientific and industrial research, P.O. Box 395, Pretoria. *Free.* no. 1, 1948.

Irreg.

The Publisher/Die Uitgewer; official organ

of the Society of South African publishers /amptelike orgaan van die Vereniging van Suid-Afrikaanse uitgewers. P.O. Box 1010, Johannesburg. 10/6 p.a. v. 1, no. 1, Aug., 1948.

Bim.

The Voortrekker; (Pietermaritzburg's own magazine). John Gunn's Press and Publicity Services, 91-93 Church St., Pietermaritzburg. 6/6 p.a. v. 1, no. 1, Aug., 1948.

M.

The Voter/Die Kieser. P.O. Box 866, Cape Town. 10/- p.a. v. 1, no. 1, Sept., 1948.

M.

The Wanderer; the official organ of the Durban Wanderers club. 452 West St., P.O. Box 2476, Durban. 6/- p.a. v. 1, no. 1, July, 1948.

M.

CHANGES OF TITLE, ADDRESS, INCORPORATIONS, ETC.

Freedom became fortnightly with n.s. v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 13, 1948.

F.

Jewish life illustrated. *New address:* 7-8 MacDonald Adams Bldg., 98 Market St., P.O. Box 3109, Johannesburg.

M.

Journal of the Institute of mine surveyors of South Africa. *New address:* P.O. Box 2, Randfontein.

Q.

Man alive & Ywer in nywerheid have been combined under the title: N.B. v. 4, no. 8, Sept., 1948.

M.

Die Nuwe orde has become: Adv. Pirow se nuusbrief; 'n weeklikse brief aan lede van die Nuwe orde. 2de reeks no. 1, Aug. 16, 1948.

W.

Die Pad has become: Die Pad en daaglikse hulp. School of Truth, P.O. Box 5582, Johannesburg. v. 1, no. 1, Sept., 1948.

M.

The Path has become The Path and daily help. School of Truth, P.O. Box 5582, Johannesburg. v. 1, no. 1, Sept., 1948.

M.

R.A.C. journal has become: The Motorist in South Africa. v. 25, no. 5, Spring, 1948. *Q.* **Signs of the Times/Tekens van die tyd** has been published in separate English and Afrikaans editions from v. 25, no. 9, Sept., 1948.

Q.

New subscriptions: 3/6 p.a. each.

M.

Simpson's woman's life has become: Woman's life (incorporating Chat). Woman's Life Services, P.O. Box 9002, Johannesburg. Nov., 1948.

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CEASED PUBLICATION

(Issue noted is last that appeared)

The African teacher/Die Bantu onderwyser. v. 4, no. 4, Mch., 1948.**Ambag.** v. 4, no. 10, Aug., 1948.**Chat. Aug.**, 1948 (*incorporated in Simpson's woman's life*).**Daaglikse hulp.** v. 9, no. 4, Aug. 1948 (*incorporated in Die Pad*).**Daily help.** v. 9, no. 4, Aug., 1948 (*incorporated in The Path*).**The Golfer.** v. 2, no. 2, Aug./Sept., 1947.**South African art collector.** v. 1, no. 4, Aug., 1947.**The South African home.** v. 3, no. 3, July, 1948 (*incorporated in The South African home gardener and poultry keeper*).**South African trader and importers' journal.** v. 15, no. 13, Sept., 1948 (*incorporated in The Executive*).**They say (formerly Pax).** no. 87, Nov., 1947.

CORRIGENDUM

S.A. Ayrshire journal is published annually, not monthly.**The Postal gazette** has become **Postal journal/Posjoernaal.** v. 1, no. 1, Apl., 1948. Q.

LIST OF BOOKS ADDED TO AFRICANA COLLECTION

Including material received under the Copyright Act No. 9, of 1916

The scope of this list is confined to Southern Africa. Publications of 50 or fewer pages are, with certain exceptions, listed separately at the end.

RELIGION/GODSDIENS

Bingle, H. J. J. Die godsdienstige leiding vandievoorskoolsekind. (Kinderopvoeding-reeks no. 2). 1948. 86 p. 18 cm. Jobg., Voortrekkerpers. 3/6. (268)**Villiers, H. T. de.** Dowwe lamppitte. [1948]. 54 p. 16½ cm. Kpstd., A.E.B.-Boekhandel. 1/9. (242)**Weyers, S. S.** Na u belydenis: 'n boek vir nuwe lidmate. 1948. 80 p. illus. 15½ cm. Stell., C.S.V. (242)**Wilkes, A. Paget.** Waarlik vry; in Afrikaans oorgesit deur Ben Pienaar. [1948]. 74 p. 16½ cm. Kpstd., A.E.B.-Boekhandel. 1/9. (242)SOCIAL SCIENCES
SOSIALE WETENSKAPPE**Bennett, Benjamin.** Too late for tears. [1948]. [vi]. 7-234 p. illus. 21½ cm. C.T., Howard Timmins for Hodder & Stoughton, London. 12/6. (343.1)**Broodryk, H. H.** Kykies in die politiek. [1948]. [xii], 271 p. 18½ cm. Kpstd., Die skrywer. (320)**Emmett, Eric.** The law of negotiable instruments in South Africa; 2nd ed. rev. and enlarged by Denis V. Cowen. 1948. xxiv, 314 p. 21½ cm. C.T., Juta. £2/2/0. (347.7)**Emmett, Eric and Barlow, Trafford Brereton.** Principles of South African company law; 2nd ed. by Trafford B. Barlow. 1948. xxviii, 312 p. 21½ cm. C.T., Juta. 35/-. (347.7)**Luctor pseud.** Tales of a grandfather in the law. [1948]. [vii], 300 p. 21½ cm. Durban, Knox Printing & Publishing Co. (347)**Mars, Walter Herbert.** The law of insolvency in South Africa; 4th ed. by Harold Edward Hockly. 1948. li [i], 798 p. 24 cm. C.T., Juta. £3/5/0. (347.7)**Sachs, Wulf.** Black anger. 1947. [vii], 324 p. front. (port.). 20½ cm. Boston, Little, Brown & Co. 20/-. (572)**Silke, A. S.** The 1948 income tax legislation: Act no. 40 of 1948. 1948. [vi] 7-36 [2] p. 23½ cm. C.T., Juta. 6/6. (336.24)**Steyn, G.** The law of wills in South Africa; 2nd ed. 1948. xl, 448 p. 24 cm. C.T., Juta. 60/-. (347.6)

Van Tromp, J. Xhosa law of persons: a treatise on the legal principles of family relations among the amaXhosa. [1948]. xii, 178 p. diagr. 21½ cm. C.T., Juta. 30/- (326:34)

Whitfield, George Maxwell Bruce. South African native law; 2nd ed. 1948. ix, 662 p. 24 cm. C.T., Juta. 63/- (326:34)

Witwatersrand, University of the. *Department of Commerce. Industrial Research Section.* Native urban employment: a study of Johannesburg employment records, 1936-44. . . 1948. xxv, 904, x p. maps, tables, diagrs. 32½ cm. Jobg., Industrial Research Section. (326:331)
Mimeographed.

PHILOLOGY/FILOLOGIE

Brewis, Lulu. Afrikaans easily learnt (with key). [1948]. [vi], 181 p. 18 cm. C.T., Mas-
kow Miller. 5/- (439:368)

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